REMARKS

This paper is provided in response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 2002, for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicants have amended the specification as requested by the Examiner. Further, Applicants have amended claims 1-12 to make procedural corrections and correct typographical errors, and have added new claims 13-22. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the specification do not add new subject matter and the amendments to the claims and the new claims are all supported by the specification as originally filed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-12 and respectfully submit that new claims 13-22 also in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-248-4038.

Respectfully submitted,
CHOATE, HALL & STEWART

Date: March 3, 2003

Donald W. Muirhead
Registration No. 33,978

Patent Group
Choate, Hall & Stewart
Exchange Place
53 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

CLEAN COPY VERSIONS OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS

Page 1, please replace the paragraph (the title) beginning on line 3 with the following:

Drive unit for hair clippers.

Page 2, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 10 with the following:

A similar problem is encountered with the oscillating armature motor disclosed in DE-AS 1 282 155, wherein a staircase-shaped air gap geometry with a plurality of steps is formed.

Page 5, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 with the following:

Figure 3: A top view of a third embodiment, wherein the field magnet-coil-assembly is connected to the armature through the first plate;

Please replace the current abstract with the Abstract attached on the following page:

DRIVE UNIT FOR HAIR CLIPPERS

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to a drive unit for hair clippers or the like comprising a drive motor which is essentially comprised of a field magnet having a coil and a core that transverses said coil, and is comprised of an armature. Lateral air gap sections are formed between the field magnet and the armature, and middle air gap sections are formed between the core and the armature. The middle air gap sections and the lateral air gap sections are configured such that they run in a slanted manner and are approximately symmetric with regard to longitudinal axis.

CLEAN-COPY LIST OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED HEREIN

1. Drive assembly for a hair-clipping machine or the like, comprising:

a drive motor which is essentially comprised of a field magnet with a coil and a core penetrating the coil as well as an armature, wherein lateral air gap sections are formed between the field magnet and the armature and center air gap sections are formed between the core and the armature, characterized in that the center air gap sections and the lateral air gap sections are each approximately symmetrical and inclined with respect to a longitude axis.

2. Drive assembly according to claim 1, characterized in that the air gap sections form an angle of approximately 45° with respect to the longitude axis.

3. Drive assembly according to claim 1, characterized in that the armature has triangular notches in the region of longitude axis, with a correspondingly formed center rib of the core projecting into the notches without making contact thereto, thereby forming the center air gap sections.

4. Drive assembly according to claim 1, characterized in that the center air gap section and/or the lateral air gap sections have a curved contour.

5. Drive assembly according to any one of claims 1-4, characterized in that the center air gap sections and/or the lateral air gap sections, when viewed in longitudinal cross section, have an inclined and/or offset cross sectional shape.

6. Drive assembly according to claim 5, characterized in that the air gap sections form an angle of approximately 45° with respect to a vertical axis.

7. Drive assembly according to claim 6, characterized in that the armature and a drive pin are connected with each other via a clip, a plate or a bolt arrangement.

8. Drive assembly according to one of the claims 1-4, characterized in that at least one compression spring is arranged between the armature and the field magnet.

9. Drive assembly according to claim 8, characterized in that the spring travel of the compression spring can be adjusted via an adjusting screw or via a clamp that lockingly engages with the legs of the clip.

10. Drive assembly according to one of the claims 1-4, characterized in that the drive assembly is formed as a module.

11. Drive assembly according to one of the claims 1-4, characterized in that the field magnet and the armature form separate modules.

12. Drive assembly according to claim 11, characterized in that the armature is connected to an oscillating spring via a bearing.

13. Drive assembly according to claims 1-4, characterized in that the center air gap sections and/or the lateral air gap sections, when viewed in longitudinal cross section have an inclined and/or offset cross sectional shape, and the field magnet and the armature form separate modules.

14. Drive assembly according to claim 13, characterized in that the armature is connected to an oscillating spring via a bearing.

15. Drive assembly according to claim 1, characterized in that the air gap sections form an angle of approximately 45° with respect to the longitude axis, and the armature has triangular notches in the region of longitude axis, with a correspondingly formed center rib of the core projecting into the notches without making contact thereto, thereby forming the center air gap sections.

16. Drive assembly according to claim 15, characterized in that the center air gap sections and/or the lateral air gap sections, when viewed in longitudinal cross section, have an inclined and/or offset cross sectional shape.

17. Drive assembly according to claim 16, characterized in that the air gap sections form an angle of approximately 45° with respect to a vertical axis.

18. Drive assembly according to claim 17, characterized in that the armature and a drive pin are connected with each other via a clip, a plate, or a bolt arrangement.

19. Drive assembly according to any one of claims 15-18, characterized in that at least one compression spring can be adjusted via an adjusting screw or via a clamp that lockingly engages with the legs of the clip.

20. Drive assembly according claim 19, characterized in that a spring travel of the compression spring can be adjusted via an adjusting screw or via a clamp that lockingly engages with the legs of the clip.

21. Drive assembly according to any one of claims 15-18, characterized in that the drive assembly is formed as a module.

22. Drive assembly according to claim 19, characterized in that the drive assembly is formed as a module.